



#### California Energy Policy: Natural Gas

### Chair Robert B. Weisenmiller California Energy Commission

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#### California's Transition to Natural Gas

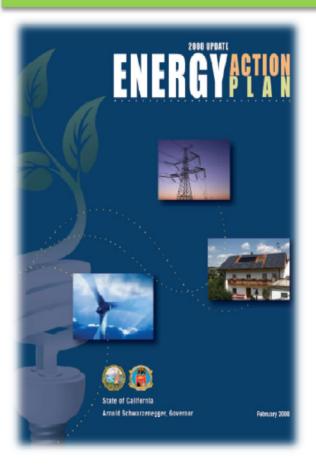
#### California's Energy Policy - 1980's:

- California transitioned away from constructing nuclear generation facilities and coal fueled power plants to natural gas
- Main drivers were cost-effectiveness and air quality issues,
   especially within Los Angeles Basin (large population)
- Shift encouraged the development of natural gas fueled
   Cogeneration/Combined Heat and Power systems throughout
   California
  - <u>Benefits:</u> more efficient electricity production and reduced air emissions (pollutants)



# California's Energy Policy Loading Order

In 2003, California's *Energy Action Plan* defined a loading order to address the state's increasing energy needs



- Energy efficiency & Demand Response
- 2. Renewable Energy & Distributed Generation
- 3. Clean fossil-fueled sources & infrastructure improvements

This strategy benefits CA by reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions and diversifying energy sources.



# **Assembly Bill 32:** The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006

- AB 32 (2006) landmark legislation requiring California to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020
- AB 32 directed the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to establish a comprehensive program of regulatory/market mechanisms to achieve real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of GHG. (Cap & Trade)
- In December 2008, ARB adopted the "Scoping Plan" -- California's policy blueprint containing the broad overview of programs, measures, and approaches to achieve the required GHG emission reductions.
- ARB held their first Cap & Trade Auction on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Allowances Sold at Auction: 23,126,110

Settlement Price Per Allowance: \$10.09

 ARB working on updating AB 32 "Scoping Plan" which will contain information on progress made at reducing California's Greenhouse Gas emissions



#### California's 21st Energy Transition

#### National Trend

 Transitioning from coal fueled power plants to natural gas fueled power plants due to low prices

#### California Trend

- Transitioning from reliance on natural gas fueled power plants to renewable energy: self-generation & utility-scale generation
  - Need for fast-ramping and more efficient natural gas fueled power plants to integrate renewable energy sources
  - Need for more efficient on-site natural gas and/or biogas (renewable) fueled Combined Heat & Powers systems to further reduce local air pollutants and GHG emissions in energy intensive industries



#### Natural Gas

#### **Ensuring Pipeline Safety**

#### • San Bruno incident raises issues:

- Aging infrastructure
- Transmission pipeline pressure
- Proper inspection & maintenance

#### Investor Owned Utilities

- Requests increase in rates to fund investments in pipeline safety improvements
- Ongoing debate over amount of requested funds and the most effective/proper use of those funds



#### Los Angeles Basin

#### Air Quality & Transportation

#### South Coast Air Quality Management District

- To achieve Clean Air Act Standards LA region must move beyond combustion driven transportation
  - Continue demonstration/deployment of a zero-emission cargo container movement system.
  - Develop modified or new permitting programs to meet the region's evolving air quality and economic needs, including:
    - Incentivizing the use of new lower emitting technologies
    - Manufacturing of lower emitting and clean technologies within the region
    - Addressing availability issues associated with emission offsets for new or modified sources
    - Reducing administrative burdens



#### Future of Natural Gas in California

 Does Natural Gas complement or compete with renewable energy sources?

 How does California better harmonize natural gas supply and electricity production?

 Is there a role for Natural Gas in California's transportation sector compared to other alternatives?









# Any Questions?

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